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28. (Amended) A method for increasing the synthesis of mucins in a patient, the method comprising supplementing a diet of the patient by adding a therapeutically effective amount of threonine to the diet.

A5 29. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein the amount of threonine is at least 0.2 mM.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein the amount of threonine is at least 0.8 mM.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein the amount of threonine ranges from about 0.2 mM to about 0.8 mM.

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A6 37. (Amended) The method of claim 36 wherein the nutritional supplement contains threonine in an amount of at least 0.2 mM.

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A7 42. (Amended) The method of claim 41 wherein the nutritional supplement contains threonine in an amount of at least 0.2 mM.

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